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New Mexico Labor Market Review

GARREY CARRUTHERS, GOVERNOR
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Paul M. Garcia, Secretary
Volume 16, No. 12, January 29, 1988
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After an unusually large increase in November, unemployment in New Mexico declined in December, resuming the gradual improving trend in evidence throughout most of 1987. The State's unemployment rate fell from 8.8 to 8.1 percent; this is the lowest rate of the year, and it is over a percentage point lower than the jobless rate of December 1986. There were 7,900 fewer unemployed than at the end of 1986, and approximately 7,700 more persons in the State were employed than one year ago.

As expected, employers in trade and services did most of the hiring in December. Firms staffed up for holiday shopping, and the State's ski industry got fully underway during the month. In comparison with recent years, fairly strong Christmas hiring was reported. Approximately 2,400 jobs were added in retail trade, compared with 2,300 in December of 1986 and only 1,300 in 1985.

Employment declined in construction and manufacturing during the month. Weather conditions hamper outside building activity this time of year, and food manufacturers (chile and vegetables) lay off workers after processing the fall crops.

As 1987 came to a close, preliminary figures indicate that employment in New Mexico continued to follow the slow growth pattern in evidence since 1986 - job growth ranging between one and two percent annually. This is below the four to five percent job increases posted in 1984 and 1985, but it is generally in line with the increases reported in the early 1980's. Although payroll employment in the State actually declined slightly in the recessionary year of 1982, job gains of between one and two percent were recorded in 1980 and 1981.

In 1987, both the trade and services industries experienced employment increases of approximately three percent, similar to that shown in 1986. Unfortunately, for the second consecutive year, employment in construction declined. The building industry lost about 1,200 jobs or five percent of its total employment. Much of the encouraging developments in 1987 came from the mining and manufacturing sectors; both experienced employment gains of over three percent - much better than reported in 1986. Specific subsectors with significant growth during 1987 were oil & gas extraction, transportation equipment manufacturing, and apparel manufacturing. Notable job growth also was reported during the year at general merchandise and miscellaneous retail stores and in business services.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	678,800	678,500	679,000	+ 300	- 200
Employment	623,700	618,500	616,000	+5,200	+7,700
Unemployment	55,100	60,000	63,000	-4,900	-7,900
Rate	8.1%	8.8%	9.3%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM DEC 1987	REVISED NOV 1987	REVISED DEC 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	542,100	539,700	535,300	2,400	6,800
MINING	15,800	15,700	14,700	100	1,100
Metal Mining	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	3,800	3,900	3,600	-100	200
Oil & Gas Extraction	10,000	9,800	9,200	200	800
CONSTRUCTION	32,400	33,600	34,200	-1,200	-1,800
MANUFACTURING	39,500	40,000	37,800	-500	1,700
DURABLE GOODS	26,300	26,600	24,400	-300	1,900
Lumber & Wood Products	2,800	2,900	2,800	-100	0
Machinery(except electric)	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200
Elec & Electronic Equip	4,600	4,700	4,300	-100	300
Transportation Equipment	5,400	5,400	4,300	0	1,100
Other Durable Goods	10,800	10,900	10,500	-100	300
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,200	13,400	13,400	-200	-200
Food & Kindred Products	4,000	4,100	4,400	-100	-400
Textile & Apparel	2,500	2,600	2,400	-100	100
Other Nondurable Goods	6,700	6,700	6,600	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	29,300	29,300	29,600	0	-300
TRANSPORTATION	13,500	13,500	13,300	0	200
Railroad Transportation	2,000	2,100	2,200	-100	-200
Trucking & Warehousing	6,400	6,300	6,200	100	200
Other Transportation	5,100	5,100	4,900	0	200
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,800	15,800	16,300	0	-500
Communication	6,600	6,600	6,800	0	-200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,200	9,200	9,500	0	-300
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	134,900	132,500	131,500	2,400	3,400
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,800	22,800	22,400	0	400
Durable Goods	13,700	13,700	13,300	0	400
Nondurable Goods	9,100	9,100	9,100	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	112,100	109,700	109,100	2,400	3,000
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	14,900	14,200	13,700	700	1,200
Food Stores	15,600	15,600	16,500	0	-900
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,500	13,500	13,300	0	200
Apparel & Accessories	6,300	5,800	6,400	500	-100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	38,900	38,800	37,700	100	1,200
Miscellaneous Retail	13,700	12,600	12,500	1,100	1,200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,400	27,300	27,000	100	400
Banking	8,000	7,900	8,000	100	0
Insurance Carriers	3,900	3,900	3,700	0	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Real Estate	6,500	6,500	6,400	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0
SERVICES	122,600	121,500	118,500	1,100	4,100
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	12,000	12,000	11,700	0	300
Personal Services	5,900	5,900	5,900	0	0
Business Services	29,300	29,100	27,700	200	1,600
Health Services	30,300	30,100	29,700	200	600
Legal Services	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
Educational Services	5,300	5,200	5,200	100	100
Social Services	6,200	6,200	6,300	0	-100
Membership Organizations	6,500	6,600	6,000	-100	500
Other Services	23,000	22,300	22,000	700	1,000
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	140,200	139,800	142,000	400	-1,800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	30,800	30,500	29,600	300	1,200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	109,400	109,300	112,400	100	-3,000
State Government 2/	47,100	46,800	52,300	300	-5,200
Local Government	62,300	62,500	60,100	-200	2,200

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

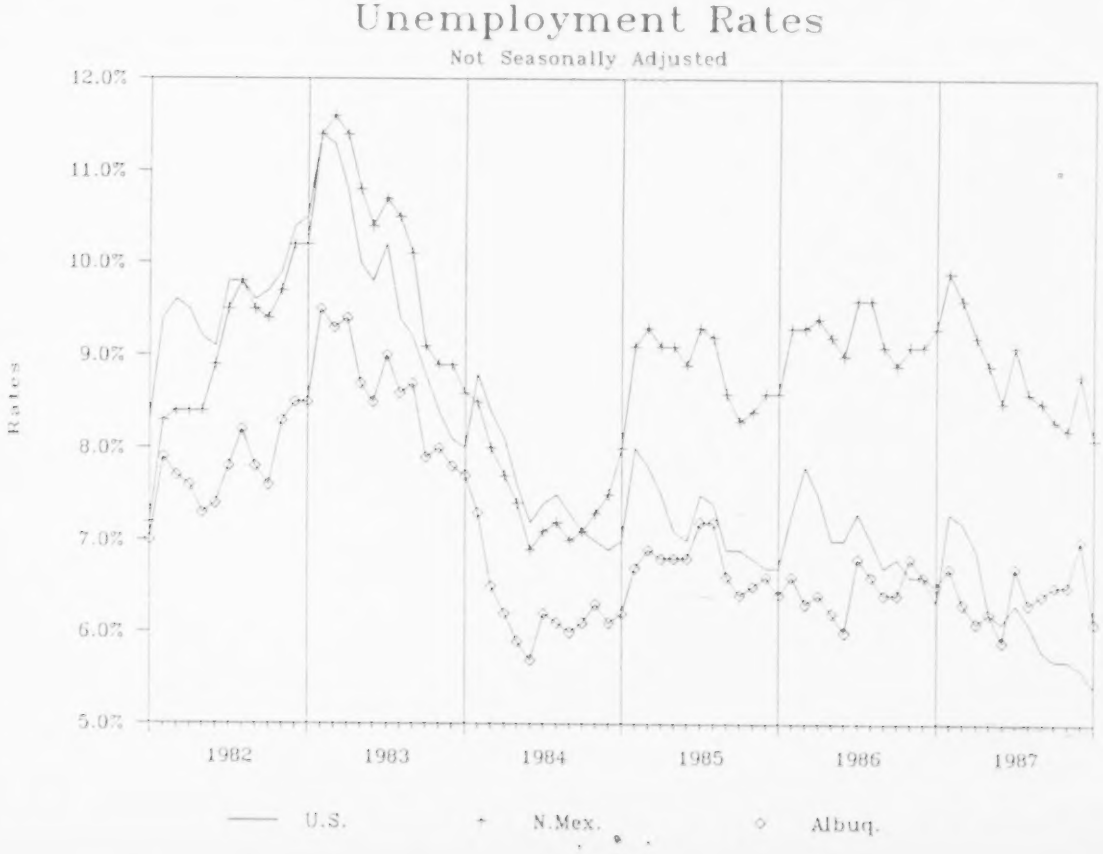
The city followed the state's lead and recovered from a sluggish November by posting a substantial drop in the unemployment rate. The Albuquerque area unemployment rate went down by nine tenths of a percentage point as the number of employed rose by 4,500 to an all-time high of 246,600.

Total nonfarm employment grew by 1200 jobs over the month, with the majority of the increase coming in the trade sector. Trade grew by 1100 jobs, a little better than is normally expected during Christmas month. Finance, insurance, & real estate, as well as services and government, also slightly exceeded usual December figures.

Construction continued its gradual decline in December. Construction employment in Albuquerque has fallen by 600 over the last twelve months. Heavy construction, which is comprised primarily of various forms of road construction, has offset a small portion of the losses in building and special trades. As evidenced by the number of orange barrels dotting the city streets, heavy construction has experienced fairly steady growth over the past two years.

Over the past twelve months, mining and transportation & public utilities posted no change in employment, while the remaining industries showed some improvement. Trade, finance, insurance, & real estate, and services all made fair to moderate gains, while manufacturing and government recorded only slight progress.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	262,600	260,200	259,200	+2,400	+3,400
Employment	246,600	242,100	242,500	+4,500	+4,100
Unemployment	16,000	18,100	16,700	-2,100	-700
Rate	6.1%	7.0%	6.4%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM DEC 1987	REVISED NOV 1987	REVISED DEC 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	235,200	234,000	230,500	1,200	4,700
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	16,200	16,700	16,800	-500	-600
MANUFACTURING	19,800	19,900	19,600	-100	200
Durable Goods	14,200	14,200	14,100	0	100
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,700	5,500	-100	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,700	12,600	12,700	100	0
Transportation	6,300	6,200	6,300	100	0
Communication	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	62,800	61,700	60,300	1,100	2,500
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,400	14,300	14,100	100	300
Durable Goods	9,800	9,800	9,500	0	300
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,500	4,600	100	0
RETAIL TRADE	48,400	47,400	46,200	1,000	2,200
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	5,800	5,500	400	700
Food Stores	5,000	5,000	5,300	0	-300
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200
Eating & Drinking Places	17,900	17,900	17,000	0	900
Other Retail Trade	14,300	13,700	13,600	600	700
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,100	15,000	14,500	100	600
Banking	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,400	4,400	4,100	0	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,400	7,300	7,300	100	100
SERVICES	63,600	63,300	61,700	300	1,900
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,900	3,900	4,100	0	-200
Personal Services	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	-100
Business Services	21,100	20,900	19,900	200	1,200
Health Services	14,700	14,600	14,300	100	400
Social Services	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Membership Organizations	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Other Services	16,400	16,400	15,900	0	500
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	44,800	44,600	44,700	200	100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,100	13,000	12,600	100	500
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	31,700	31,600	32,100	100	-400
State Government	11,100	11,100	12,700	0	-1,600
Local Government	20,600	20,500	19,400	100	1,200

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1987	REVISED NOV 1987	REVISED DEC 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	39,600	39,950	41,850	-350	-2,250
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,600	2,700	2,500	-100	100
MANUFACTURING	3,150	3,150	3,250	0	-100
Durable Goods	1,250	1,250	1,150	0	100
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	2,100	0	-200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100
Transportation	500	500	550	0	-50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	850	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,300	8,150	8,050	150	250
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	850	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	7,450	7,300	7,200	150	250
General Merchandise Stores	1,000	950	1,000	50	0
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,100	0	-50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,000	1,000	850	0	150
Eating & Drinking Places	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Other Retail Trade	1,700	1,600	1,550	100	150
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,600	1,600	1,550	0	50
SERVICES	6,300	6,400	6,050	-100	250
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	750	800	750	-50	0
Business Services	1,350	1,350	1,100	0	250
Health Services	1,700	1,750	1,650	-50	50
Social Services	300	300	250	0	50
Other Services	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,300	16,600	19,000	-300	-2,700
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,100	12,400	14,700	-300	-2,600
State Government	6,800	7,100	9,600	-300	-2,800
Local Government	5,300	5,300	5,100	0	200

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1987	REVISED NOV 1987	REVISED DEC 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	54,900	54,550	53,950	350	950
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	3,100	3,200	3,200	-100	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,650	1,650	1,600	0	50
Durable Goods	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,150	1,150	1,200	0	-50
Transportation	450	450	450	0	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	700	700	750	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11,600	11,300	10,800	300	800
WHOLESALE TRADE	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	10,900	10,600	10,100	300	800
General Merchandise Stores	1,200	1,150	1,050	50	150
Food Stores	2,000	1,950	1,850	50	150
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	4,100	4,000	3,800	100	300
Other Retail Trade	2,800	2,700	2,600	100	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
SERVICES	14,050	14,000	13,350	50	700
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,850	1,900	1,750	-50	100
Business Services	3,100	3,100	3,000	0	100
Health Services	3,000	3,100	3,000	-100	0
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	5,500	5,300	5,000	200	500
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21,200	21,100	21,600	100	-400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,500	1,500	100	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	19,600	19,600	20,100	0	-500
State Government 3/	15,500	15,500	16,200	0	-700
Local Government	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	200

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986
MINING	$506.97	$510.84	$465.90	44.2	44.0	38.6	11.47	11.61	12.07
CONSTRUCTION	$422.81	$430.85	$386.63	39.7	39.6	34.8	10.65	10.88	11.11
MANUFACTURING	$346.90	$352.54	$366.02	41.2	39.7	40.4	8.42	8.88	9.06
Durable Goods	$365.50	$369.24	$374.10	43.0	40.8	41.2	8.50	9.05	9.08
Nondurable Goods	$306.53	$309.59	$349.20	37.2	36.9	38.8	8.24	8.39	9.00
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$583.95	$575.88	$521.05	41.8	41.7	42.5	13.97	13.81	12.26
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$228.90	$221.81	$215.76	32.7	32.1	32.3	7.00	6.91	6.68
Wholesale Trade	$408.62	$406.63	$359.96	40.1	40.3	40.4	10.19	10.09	8.91
Retail Trade	$188.40	$186.66	$190.04	31.4	30.5	30.9	6.00	6.12	6.15
BANKING	$232.94	$229.13	$228.86	38.0	37.5	38.4	6.13	6.11	5.96
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986
MANUFACTURING	$375.55	$367.20	$382.34	40.6	40.0	41.2	9.25	9.18	9.28
Durable Goods	$399.10	$390.86	$401.00	41.4	40.8	42.3	9.64	9.58	9.48
Nondurable Goods	$305.63	$297.86	$316.68	38.3	37.8	37.3	7.98	7.88	8.49

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

Area Economic Activity

Statewide: The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association's annual statistical report shows that the sales value of oil and gas produced in the state in 1987 was $2.5 billion. This is up from the $2.4 billion in 1986, but it is still the second lowest yearly total since 1978. During 1987 an average of 34 oil drilling rigs were in operation in New Mexico, compared with 29 in 1986. The 1987 average was less than half the 71 rigs in operation in the state on average in 1985.

Albuquerque Area: Smith's Corporation plans to build a 70,000-square-foot supermarket at the corner of Montgomery and Tramway Boulevards NE. Construction should start in February. The Koury Co. and Roger Cox and Associates plan to build a $5 million, 65,000-square-foot retail and office complex on a 5-acre tract near the intersection of Wyoming and Montgomery NE. The first phase of the complex will include a $2 million Golden Corral family steakhouse which should be completed in May. Reliable Chevrolet is the first auto dealership to open at the 40-acre Cottonwood Auto Park. Reliable takes up seven and one half acres of the Auto Park and consists of two buildings with a total area of 55,000 square feet. The dealership currently employs 75 people and eventually expects to employ as many as 150. Cottonwood Auto Park, which is located along the recently completed Coors Bypass, is expected to house six to eight dealerships within five years. Construction has begun on an addition to El Camino Medical Center, located across from Anna Kaseman Hospital. The 16,000 square-foot building is scheduled for completion in March. A $2.8 million, 64,000-square-foot, Bag N' Save Food Emporium is scheduled for completion in early February. The food store is part of the 72,500-square-foot Country Club Plaza, a new shopping center in Rio Rancho. Several other stores should be ready for occupancy by fall; the center will have 30 to 55 stores when completed.

Alamogordo / Ruidoso Area: DynCorp is expected to hire approximately 650 workers over the next few months to handle the $104 million contract for aircraft maintenance at Holloman Air Force Base. DynCorp workers will replace about 900 airmen and 133 civil service employees currently performing the maintenance; however, the displaced workers will have "first right of refusal" for any job for which they are

qualified, according the DynCorp officials. DynCorp will be working with the local New Mexico Department of Labor office in taking applications, interviewing, and screening prospective employees. Holloman officials said the displaced airmen will be reassigned to other units at the base; and as they are transferred, separated, or retired, they will not be replaced. The Strategic Defense Initiative project will receive $130 million in Fiscal Year 1988 which was less than the $320 million requested for the project. According to government officials, this could move back by at least a year the development of the Free Electron Laser Project to be located south of Alamogordo at Orogrande. Ongoing construction at the site will continue; however, no new construction will be initiated this year, according to officials. The Sierra Blanca Regional Airport was officially opened in December with the first landing of Mesa Airlines, inaugurating daily service to the area. The airport is located 15 miles northeast of Ruidoso.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: Canadian potash producers and the U.S. government reached an agreement which should halt the dumping of Canadian potash on the U.S. market, thereby resulting in long term stability for the U.S. industry. According to industry officials, unfair foreign competition has caused the loss of about 2,000 Carlsbad area jobs in recent years, and the recent agreement should preserve the 1,700 potash jobs remaining at the five operating mines in the area. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and Border Patrol are looking at the former College of Artesia campus as the possible site of a training facility.

Clovis / Portales Area: Two firms have submitted proposals for purchasing the lease on the closed Clovis Milk Plant. Affiliated Foods, Inc., out of Amarillo, TX and Associated Milk Producer, Inc. of San Antonio, TX have submitted written proposals to operate the facility. The plant was shut down on November 7, 1987 after Borden Inc. purchased the plant's lease from Furr's Inc. At that time Borden terminated all 71 employees of the plant. Affiliated Foods wants to reopen the facility as a Grade A milk plant which could employ between 25 and 40 workers, and Associated Milk Producer's proposal calls for production of evaporated milk and hard cheese products. Borden and the City of Clovis will jointly make the final determination on who will operate the plant. Construction has started on the new Blake's Lota Burger meat processing plant between Clovis and Texico.

Deming / Lordsburg Area: The General Services Administration is expected to award a contract soon for construction of a new border station facility at Columbus. Victorio Homes, a modular home builder, has closed its manufacturing facilities in Lordsburg. Victorio Homes had been in operation for about two years.

Farmington Area: Smith's Food King is in the process of remodeling its Farmington store; the supermarket will have an additional 28,000-square-feet and will employ 75 more workers.

Grants Area: Part of the El Malpais National Conservation Area has been declared a national monument; the new El Malpais National Monument consists of 114,000 acres and is located between Highways 117 and 53 near Grants. The monument is expected to increase tourism in the area. This is the second national monument for Cibola County; El Morro National Monument was established around the turn of the century. Homestake Mining has hired 24 employees to process uranium ore from Chevron's Mount Taylor mine. Officials stated that there were nearly 500 applications for the 24 jobs. An additional ten workers will be hired once rebuilding and maintenance work is completed.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: Oil drilling activity in the Permian Basin declined by 8 rigs in the final week of 1987, according to Hughes Tool Company. The rig count was 180, compared with 139 rigs in operation at the end of 1986. Nationally, there were 1,145 oil drilling rigs working at the end of 1987.

Las Cruces Area: A U.S. - Mexican governor's conference was recently held in Las Cruces. Participating were the governors of four U.S. and six Mexican states that share the 2,000-mile international border. One agreement produced at the conference was an endorsement of the maquila, or twin plant, as the "principal strategy for economic development along the

U.S.- Mexico border." New Mexico has at least four maquiladoras, all in Dona Ana County. Honeywell operates a twin plant in Las Cruces making computer keyboard membranes, Createc makes packing materials at its Las Cruces facility, Foamex manufactures polyurethane foam at its Santa Teresa plant, and Baccus Industries, in Sunland Park, makes commercial evaporative air conditioners. Two new twin plant operations are in the initial stages of development. Dona Fashions is opening a garment factory, and Cloud Country Enterprises is locating a leather products firm in the Sunland Park area. In other developments, Honeywell Corporation officials announced that they are laying off 65 workers in the Las Cruces plant and transferring 45 other workers to the company's El Paso facility. The Las Cruces Honeywell plant will continue to employ about 60 workers. The actions are designed to lower costs and make Honeywell more competitive. The area red chile and pecan harvests were completed in early January, with harvest conditions reported as "Fair". The cotton harvest will be completed by the end of January, and the spring onion crop is reported in "Fair Condition".

Santa Fe Area: The Smith's supermarket in the Plaza Princesa Shopping Center closed on January 9. This was one of the smaller Smith's supermarkets in the state, with only 25,000-square-feet and 40 employees. Smith's corporate spokesman stated the store was closed because it was too small to compete with other supermarkets in the area. The closing will not affect any of the other sixteen Smith's stores in the state. The facility has been leased by Pic N'Save and will open in March. Pic N'Save will employ between 30 and 40 persons.

Raton Area: Kaiser Coal laid off about 150 miners from its York Canyon facility in late December. Company officials stated market conditions did not justify continuing its underground mining operations. Kaiser Coal is in the process of selling its York Canyon operation to Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Co. The mine's operating status will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis, and the underground facilities will reopen as soon as the market improves.

Roswell Area: The Roswell Industrial Air Center is the site for an Organizational Readiness Inspection program for both the New Mexico and Ohio National Guards. Several hundred National Guard personnel will be in Roswell from January 24 through February 9 to participate in the exercise.

Silver City Area: The price of copper has risen to $1.42 per pound in recent weeks, and industry analysts predict that the metal is heading even higher in the near future. Current copper prices are the highest since the record high of $1.74 per pound in 1974. This bodes well for the Silver City area since the copper mining and smelting industry plays a major part in the local economy.

Taos Area: Banquest-First State Bank closed its Penasco and Red River branches in January. Officials stated the bank had not been profitable in 1987, and they were forced to close the smaller branches because of low deposits and loan activity.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986	Percent Change Nov.'87-Dec.'87	Dec.'86-Dec.'87
CPI-U	345.7	345.8	331.1	.0%	+4.4%
CPI-W	340.2	340.4	325.7	-0.1%	+4.5%

Index Base Year 1967 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1987				REVISED NOVEMBER 1987				REVISED DECEMBER 1986			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	678,778	623,685	55,093	8.1%	678,456	618,480	59,976	8.8%	679,033	616,019	63,014	9.3%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	262,600	246,554	16,046	6.1%	260,234	242,091	18,143	7.0%	259,266	242,523	16,743	6.5%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	54,835	51,069	3,766	6.9%	56,843	52,333	4,510	7.9%	56,577	52,837	3,740	6.6%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	65,534	61,944	3,590	5.5%	64,702	61,110	3,592	5.6%	64,695	60,981	3,714	5.7%
Catron	1,092	962	130	11.9%	1,184	1,049	135	11.4%	1,124	912	212	18.9%
Chaves	22,376	20,880	1,496	6.7%	22,423	20,595	1,828	8.2%	22,631	20,524	2,107	9.3%
Cibola	9,098	7,972	1,126	12.4%	9,015	7,903	1,112	12.3%	8,601	7,125	1,476	17.2%
Colfax	6,872	6,174	698	10.2%	6,684	5,955	729	10.9%	6,678	5,392	1,286	19.3%
Curry	16,542	15,175	1,367	8.3%	16,771	15,236	1,535	9.2%	17,641	16,181	1,460	8.3%
De Baca	833	743	90	10.8%	874	776	98	11.2%	912	809	103	11.3%
Eddy	20,094	17,958	2,136	10.6%	20,172	17,914	2,258	11.2%	21,926	18,506	3,420	15.6%
Grant	10,206	9,286	920	9.0%	10,241	9,228	1,013	9.9%	9,861	8,794	1,067	10.8%
Guadalupe	1,583	1,298	285	18.0%	1,605	1,339	266	16.6%	1,698	1,412	286	16.8%
Harding	373	325	48	12.9%	389	337	52	13.4%	456	393	63	13.8%
Hidalgo	2,287	2,132	155	6.8%	2,319	2,127	192	8.3%	2,524	2,359	165	6.5%
Lea	22,000	20,231	1,769	8.0%	22,105	20,030	2,075	9.4%	24,779	21,579	3,200	12.9%
Lincoln	6,406	5,872	534	8.3%	6,681	6,111	570	8.5%	6,888	6,243	645	9.4%
Luna	5,782	4,977	805	13.9%	5,881	4,981	900	15.3%	5,608	4,699	909	16.2%
McKinley	17,350	15,068	2,282	13.2%	17,109	14,853	2,256	13.2%	16,826	14,600	2,226	13.2%
Mora	1,294	881	413	31.9%	1,322	907	415	31.4%	1,210	724	486	40.2%
Otero	18,658	17,151	1,507	8.1%	18,418	16,900	1,518	8.2%	17,860	16,432	1,428	8.0%
Quay	4,452	4,047	405	9.1%	4,546	4,087	459	10.1%	4,453	4,048	405	9.1%
Rio Arriba	13,663	11,238	2,425	17.7%	13,648	11,182	2,466	18.1%	13,071	10,391	2,680	20.5%
Roosevelt	7,362	6,974	388	5.3%	7,718	7,198	520	6.7%	7,415	6,967	448	6.0%
Sandoval	24,391	22,412	1,979	8.1%	24,519	22,396	2,123	8.7%	22,515	20,454	2,061	9.2%
San Juan	34,150	29,941	4,209	12.3%	34,172	29,601	4,571	13.4%	35,144	29,545	5,599	15.9%
San Miguel	9,765	8,520	1,245	12.7%	9,764	8,506	1,258	12.9%	10,107	8,774	1,333	13.2%
Sierra	2,542	2,351	191	7.5%	2,494	2,321	173	6.9%	2,500	2,268	232	9.3%
Socorro	5,668	5,056	612	10.8%	5,890	5,246	644	10.9%	5,883	5,343	540	9.2%
Taos	10,561	8,048	2,513	23.8%	10,157	7,683	2,474	24.4%	10,045	7,198	2,847	28.3%
Torrance	3,365	2,981	384	11.4%	3,392	2,995	397	11.7%	3,148	2,743	405	12.9%
Union	1,952	1,805	147	7.5%	1,976	1,852	124	6.3%	1,950	1,787	163	8.4%
Valencia	15,092	13,660	1,432	9.5%	15,208	13,638	1,570	10.3%	15,041	13,476	1,565	10.4%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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New Mexico
Unemployment Rates by Area
December 1987